



QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. COMPARE 1949 CASH FARM RECEIPTS WITH 1948.
2. WHAT IS THE EXPECTED CORN ACREAGE FOR 1950?
3. HOW DID FEBRUARY EGG PRODUCTION COMPARE WITH JANUARY?
4. WHAT IS THE EXPECTED TOBACCO ACREAGE FOR 1950?
5. DISCUSS BROILER PLACEMENTS IN THE CHATHAM-WILKES AREAS.
6. WHEN WILL WORK ON THE 1950 U. S. CENSUS BEGIN?
7. WHAT IS THE EXPECTED PEANUT ACREAGE FOR 1950?
8. DISCUSS THE 1950 CROP OUTLOOK FOR NORTH CAROLINA.
9. HOW MANY HOGS WERE SLAUGHTERED IN N. C. IN FEBRUARY?
10. WHAT WAS THE FEBRUARY MILK PRODUCTION PER COW?

No. 57

RALEIGH, N. C.

MARCH 23, 1950

MARCH GENERAL FARM REPORT AND 1950 INTENTIONS TO PLANT

1950 CROP OUTLOOK BRIGHT

As of March 1, the 1950 agricultural outlook for North Carolina was unusually bright from the standpoint of conditions having a bearing on the production of field crops.

The fall and winter months were almost ideal for the seeding of winter grain crops and the preparation of land for spring planting. Mild temperatures during the winter months were conducive to rapid growth of small grain crops and in some cases have made these crops vulnerable to late spring freeze damage should we have a repetition of the April freeze which occurred last year.

However, the low temperatures which occurred around March 1 have had a hardening effect on these crops, which may stave off any later serious cold damage.

Most Tar Heel farmers are considerably ahead of normal in the preparation of land, and generally, seed beds are in excellent condition for spring planting.

Except for rather heavy damage to the commercial peach crop and some of the more advanced truck crops, there

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MILK PRODUCTION DOWN SEASONALLY

Total milk production on farms in North Carolina during the month of February dropped to 113 million pounds compared to 119 million pounds for the previous month. However, production for February this year was slightly greater than for February 1949.

Milk production per cow during February at 304 pounds was 19 pounds below that for the previous month and 11 pounds below that for February, 1949.

The average number of milk cows on farms during February totaled 371,000 head.

BROILER PLACEMENTS RISE SEASONALLY

Chick placements in the Chatham-Wilkes commercial broiler areas increased seasonally to 1,646,000 for February. This was an increase of 19% over January placements of 1,379,000 but only 3 percent more than were placed during February of last year.

Of the total number 1,000,000 were placed in the Chatham area and 646,000 in the Wilkes area.

The number of eggs set in the combined areas rose 24.5 percent over January settings and 2 percent over February a year ago to 2,902,000.

During February, 63 percent more chicks were placed in the Chatham-Wilkes areas than in December 1949 when placements reached their lowest point since July 1948.

Although increases over the preceding year were noted both in numbers of eggs set and numbers of chicks placed with commercial broiler producers, the number of chicks hatched in the Chatham-Wilkes areas during February declined 2 percent to 1,982,000.

1950 U. S. CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

The 1950 U. S. Census of Agriculture and Population will start April 1. This work is done by the U. S. Department of Commerce each 5 years. All information reported to the U. S. Census is confidential. The Census of Agriculture schedules will be mailed to farmers sometime during March.

GOOD WEATHER MEANS BUSY DAYS FOR TAR HEEL FARMERS

N. C. 1949 CASH FARM RECEIPTS ONE-TENTH LESS THAN IN 1948

Cash receipts from farm marketings of crops, livestock and products in North Carolina totaled \$712,713,000 in 1949. This was a sharp decrease of 10 percent from comparable receipts in 1948 and is the first decline in cash farm income for Tar Heel farmers since 1940.

Cash farm receipts until 1949 had been increasing at variable rates for the past 8 years. The currently estimated receipts for 1949 are the second lowest of the past 5 years, being 34 percent above 1945 receipts but 4 percent below 1946 receipts.

The greatest decline occurred in cash receipts from marketings of crops, which at \$570,421,000 was 10.7 percent less than in 1948. As the sale of crops constitute about

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CROP OUTLOOK (Continued)

has not been any serious winter damage to crops to date. Present prospects are for an ample supply of tobacco plants. Recent freezes were not generally damaging to tobacco beds.

In general, moisture supplies are adequate; although dry areas are developing in some east central and southeastern localities.

The commercial peach crop has been hit pretty hard by early March freezes, but the commercial apple crop probably benefitted since the low temperatures served to delay premature budding and has hardened the trees against later freezes.

Pasture grasses have provided an unusually large amount of winter grazing in all areas of the state.

Farm labor supplies should be in better condition this season than in any year since pre-war days.

WHEAT ACREAGE DOWN

A summary of reports from N. C. farmers indicate they have planted 435,000 acres of wheat since last fall. This is 15 percent below the acreage planted to wheat during the 1948-49 season and 12 percent below the 10-year average.

Farmers have indicated they will harvest 418,000 of the 435,000 for grain. The reduced acreage for the current season reflects the influence of optional production quotas for those growers desiring price supports for wheat.

The total U. S. wheat crop is indicated as, 53.0 million acres. This compares with 62.4 million acres in 1949 and the 10-year average of 47.7 million acres.

LARGER SOYBEAN ACREAGE

The 1950 prospective acreage for soybeans grown alone for all purposes in North Carolina is 391,000 acres; or about 2.9 percent above 1949. This compares with the 10-year average of 382,000 acres.

Farmers intention to increase their soybean acreage came primarily as a result of the cotton acreage control program and the further reduction in the acreage allotments for commercial peanuts.

Most of the increase in the soybean acreage is expected to take place in the central and southern Piedmont and in Coastal Plains counties.

As of March 1, growers throughout the United States expressed intentions to plant 13,500,000 acres of soybeans. This prospective acreage is 18 percent more than the acreage planted in 1949.

NO CHANGE IN CORN ACREAGE

As of March 1 Tar Heel farmers reported intentions to plant 2,192,000 acres of corn for all purposes in the State. This is the same as the acreage planted for all purposes last year, but 6 percent smaller than the 10-year averages of 2,322,000 acres.

For the first time, acreage controls have been applied to corn in North Carolina. Control measures have been applied to the corn acreage in 13 eastern counties, which were designated as commercial corn producing areas.

The total corn acreage allotted to these 13 counties amounts to 184,700 acres, approximately 27 percent below the acreage planted in these counties in 1949. This is 8 percent of the State's total prospective acreage for 1950. This decrease is offset by slight increases in the acreage planned by farmers in other areas.

Assuming that the combination of all contributing factors during 1950 would result in yields equal to the 3-year 1947-49 average, production of corn for all purposes would be about 70.4 million bushels.

BARLEY AND RYE ACREAGE SAME

On the basis of reports from growers it is estimated that 42,000 acres were seeded to barley. This is the same as the acreage seeded during the previous season. Indications are that 36,000 acres will be harvested for grain.

Of the estimated 116,000 acres seeded to rye which shows no change from the previous season, indications are that 19,000 acres will be harvested.

**PROSPECTIVE PEANUT ACREAGE
LOWEST SINCE 1941**

Based on growers March intentions to plant peanuts "alone for all purposes", plantings in North Carolina will amount to 243,000 acres. If these intentions materialize, the crop this year will be 5,000 acres below the 1949 acreage and will be the smallest in the State since 1941.

The decrease in this acreage is caused primarily by a further reduction in the allotments for the commercial crop.

The total United States acreage of peanuts to be planted alone for all purposes in 1950 is indicated at 2,570,000 acres, according to grower's planting intentions as of March 1. This is 12 percent below 1949 plantings, 29 percent under the 1939-48 average

POTATO ACREAGE SAME AS 1949

Early reports from potato producing areas throughout the state show that growers intend to plant a total of 61,000 acres of Irish Potatoes this year. This is the same acreage as harvested in 1949, but .26 percent less than the 10 year average of 82,000 acres.

Growers in the "commercial early" areas currently expect to plant 23,500 acres of potatoes. This acreage compares with 24,000 acres harvested last year and the 1939-48 average of 33,850 acres.

OATS CROP ABOUT SAME

The total acreage seeded to oats during the 1949-50 season is expected to be 500,000 acres or 5,000 acres more than the 1948-49 season. Current estimated seedings are 26 percent above the 10-year average of 396,000 acres.

The total U. S. oats acreage is estimated at 48.0 million acres which is 3,439,000 acres more than last year and compares with the 10-year average of 42.9 million acres.

SWEETPOTATO ACREAGE UP 12%

If farmers carry out their March 1 intentions there will be about 58,000 acres of sweetpotatoes planted in the state this year. Such a crop would be 12 percent greater than the 1949 crop of 52,000 acres, but .17 percent less than the 1939-48 average of 70,000 acres.

The trend in the sweetpotato acreage has been steadily downward since 1932 reaching an all time low of 49,000 acres in 1948. The preliminary acreage for 1950 shows an 18 percent increase over the record low crop of 1948 indicating that the trend in sweetpotatoes has probably been reversed.

SORGHUM ACREAGE UP 9 PERCENT

North Carolina farmers have indicated they will plant 49,000 acres of sorghums for all purposes this year. This is 9 percent larger than 45,000 acres harvested in 1949 and 75 percent greater than the 1939-48 average of 28,000 acres.

If U. S. farmers carry out their March 1 intentions they will plant 14.6 million acres of sorghums for all purposes. This acreage compares with 11.8 million acres harvested last year and a 1939-48 average of 16.6 million acres.

CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MARKETINGS

JANUARY- DECEMBER 1948-49

STATE	LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS		CROPS		TOTAL	
	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949
MILLION DOLLARS						
DEL....	80.7	86.2	17.9	15.8	98.7	102.0
MD....	168.6	159.8	80.6	80.3	249.2	240.1
VA....	231.8	210.3	216.1	195.6	447.9	405.9
W. VA..	102.0	89.3	27.6	24.6	129.6	113.8
N. C....	153.5	142.3	638.4	570.4	792.0	712.7
S. C....	77.2	72.1	272.2	206.0	349.5	278.0
GA.....	169.8	166.2	349.7	282.4	519.5	448.6
FLA....	104.8	94.6	230.5	303.9	335.3	398.6
S. ATL.	1,088.5	1,020.7	1,833.1	1,679.0	2,921.6	2,699.7
U. S...	17,060.8	14,951.4	13,484.7	12,566.2	30,545.5	27,517.7

CASH FARM RECEIPTS (Continued)

80 percent of the total cash receipts, a 10.7 percent decline means a very heavy loss of income to North Carolina farmers.

Cash receipts from marketings of livestock and products in 1949 were 7.8 percent off from 1948. Cash income from crops has a ratio of \$4 to \$1 when compared to that from livestock.

At 2.7 billions of dollars the total cash receipts from farm marketings of crops, livestock and products for the South Atlantic States in 1949 was about 8 percent less than in 1948.

Cash receipts from marketings for the United States as a whole for 1949 were about 10 percent short of receipts for 1948.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTING FOR 1950

CROPS	NORTH CAROLINA						UNITED STATES					
	AVERAGE 1939-1948			ACREAGE PLANTED			AVERAGE 1939-1948			ACREAGE PLANTED		
	ACREAGE PLANTED	YIELD PER PLANTED ACRE		1949	INDICATED 1950	1950 % OF 1949	UNIT OF YIELD	ACREAGE PLANTED	YIELD PER PLANTED ACRE	1949	INDICATED 1950	1950 % OF 1949
	(000)	UNITS	(000)	(000)	%		(000)	UNITS	(000)	(000)	%	
CORN, ALL.....	2,322	24.0	2,192	2,192	100	BU.	89,825	32.3	87,910	82,765	94.1	
OATS.....	396	21.0	495	500	101	BU.	42,891	29.6	44,525	47,964	107.7	
BARLEY.....	43	19.6	42	42	100	BU.	14,713	21.3	11,208	13,879	123.8	
ALL HAY*	1,229	.99	1,205	1,181	98	TON	74,470	1.35	72,835	75,091	103.1	
SWEETPOTATOES.....	70	107	52	58	112	BU.	689.8	90.0	548	603	110.0	
POTATOES.....	82	114	61	61	100	BU.	2,717.9	151.2	1,923.6	1,861.8	96.8	
TOBACCO*												
TYPE 11.....	254.4	994	240.0	245.0	102	LBS.	351.7	1,000	333.0	339.0	102	
TYPE 12.....	322.7	1,110	304.0	307.0	101	LBS.	322.7	1,110	304.0	307.0	101	
TYPE 13.....	76.2	1,088	77.0	78.0	101	LBS.	188.1	1,075	188.0	190.0	101	
ALL FLUE CURED*	653.3	1,060	621.0	630.0	101	LBS.	969.4	1,048	936.4	949.6	101	
TYPE 31 (BURLEY).....	9.1	1,318	10.8	9.5	88	LBS.	422.7	1,104	449.2	401.0	89	
ALL TOBACCO*	662.4	1,065	631.8	639.5	101	LBS.	1,649.6	1,073	1,626.3	1,581.9	97.3	
SOYBEANS**.....	382	-	380	391	103	-	12,059	-	11,409	13,500	118.3	
COWPEAS**.....	120	-	57	53	93	-	2,241	-	1,177	1,192	101.3	
PEANUTS**.....	297	-	248	243	98	-	3,634	-	2,929	2,570	87.7	
SORGHUMS, ALL PURPOSE..	28	-	45	49	109	-	16,635	-	11,754	14,568	123.9	

*Acreage harvested.

**Grown alone for all purposes -- partly duplicated in hay acreage.

TOBACCO ACREAGE UP 1.4 PERCENT

Reports from growers of flue-cured tobacco in North Carolina as of March 1 indicate they intend to plant 1.4 percent more acres of the golden weed in 1950 than they planted in 1949. This, in reality, amounts to only about 9,000 acres more than was harvested last year, or a total of 630,000 acres compared with 621,000 acres in 1949. The 10-year average for all flue-cured tobacco is 653,300 acres.

Most of the increase is expected in Type 11. Growers of this type intend to plant 245,000 acres this year, compared with 240,000 acres last year--an increase of 2 percent. Type 11 producers have, during past years, harvested somewhat less tobacco acreage than the total allotted for this type.

This is principally due to the fact that grain-livestock enterprises in this area have tended to minimize the importance of tobacco production. However, since cash farm income dropped considerably in 1949, farmers eligible for tobacco

production are expected to place more emphasis on this crop in 1950.

Reports from Type 12 producers reflect intentions to plant 307,000 acres this year, compared with 304,000 acres in 1949. This is a 1 percent increase for this type and is about equal to the increase allowed through allotments.

Producers of Type 13 or Border Belt tobacco indicate that acreage for this type will be about 1 percent greater in 1950 than in 1949. This would be 78,000 acres, compared with 77,000 acres last year.

A mild and rather open winter made it possible for tobacco growers to seed their plant beds early and under optimum conditions. Adequate moisture, combined with unusually warm weather during January and February, caused early germination of seeds in all flue-cured belts.

Reports of midge larva damage to seedbeds and the appearance of "blue mold" were quite common as of March 1. Subsequent cold weather is believed to have aided in keeping diseases and insects in check.

In contrast to the increase ex-

pected in flue-cured tobacco, Burley production in 1950 is expected to decrease sharply from 1949 production. As of March 1, growers expected to plant 9,500 acres in 1950, compared with 10,800 in 1949.

PROSPECTIVE HAY ACREAGE LOWEST IN EIGHT YEARS

Based on March 1 intentions reports, a total of 1,181,000 acres of hays of all kinds is expected to be planted for harvest in 1950. This is 2 percent less than the total acreage harvested in 1949 and is the lowest for the past 8 years. Hay acreage has been steadily declining for the past 4 years.

Rather sharp reductions in wheat and peanut acreages for 1950 are the principal causes for a lower total hay acreage than in 1949, a smaller wheat acreage, of course, meaning a smaller lespedeza hay crop. Peanut hay also would be expected to decline when the acreage of peanuts for threshing is cut,

FARM REPORT

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MARCH 23, 1950

FARM REPORT

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CATTLE SLAUGHTER DECLINES

Commercial slaughter in North Carolina for January increased in numbers over December slaughter for all species except sheep. This includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter, but excludes farm slaughter.

The number of sheep slaughtered remained the same as for December 1949 and showed no change from January a year ago.

Slaughter of cattle and calves was down sharply from January 1949. In numbers of animals slaughtered, cattle declined 22% and calves 43%, while in total liveweight there was a decrease of 17% in cattle and more than 54% in calves from slaughter during the same period a year ago.

Compared with January 1949, the 34,000 hogs slaughtered during January of this year was 13% more and pork production was up 21%. Commercial hog slaughter in the state during January of this year also showed a sharp increase over December.

Commercial meat production in the United States during January 1950 totaled 1,874 million pounds. Production was down 1 percent from the 1,894 million pounds produced during December 1949 but was 1 percent above the 1,863 million pounds produced during January 1949.

Compared with January a year ago, the 1,509,500 head of cattle slaughtered during January this year was 4 percent less, while beef production was down only 2 percent.

This smaller decrease in production was caused by an increase of 16 pounds in the average liveweight per head slaughtered.

January slaughter of 7,023,900 hogs showed a decrease of 8 percent compared with December but was 7 percent greater when compared with January a year ago.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, JANUARY,* 1949 AND 1950

SPECIES	NORTH CAROLINA				UNITED STATES			
	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVELWEIGHT		NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVELWEIGHT	
	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950
	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. LBS.	THOUS. LBS.	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. LBS.	THOUS. LBS.
CATTLE....	8.2	6.4	6,542	5,432	1,569.2	1,509.5	1,477,697	1,446,685
CALVES....	7.7	4.4	1,490	680	833.3	801.8	167,489	157,619
HOGS.....	30.0	34.0	6,618	8,032	6,571.5	7,023.9	1,632,631	1,697,110
SHEEP & LAMBS...	.1	.1	9	9	1,343.0	1,169.3	129,172	116,561

* Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.

FEBRUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

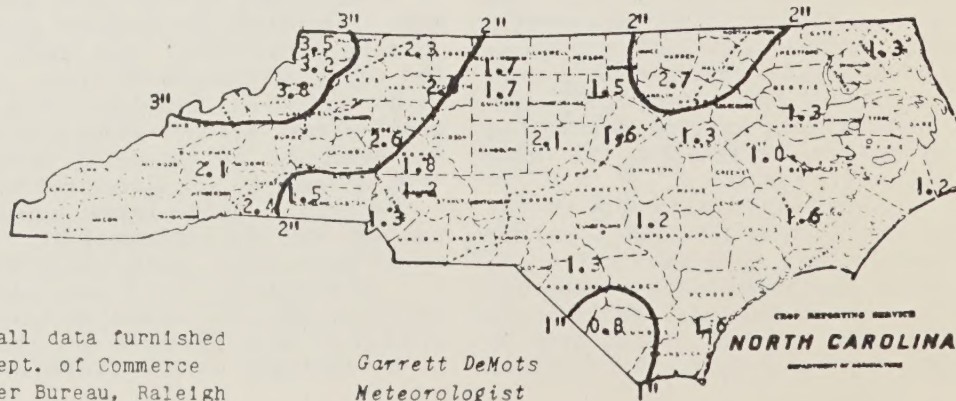
February, 1950, started off with mild temperatures following the abnormally warm weather of January. By mid-February, however, cooler Canadian air succeeded in bringing temperatures to more seasonable levels. As a result, average temperatures for the month were only 3 to 6 degrees above the long-time averages. A hard freeze occurred in all sections of the State on the final two days of the month.

Some of the lowest readings of the winter were recorded at several places

with temperatures ranging from 18 to 22 degrees in the Coastal Plains and much of the Piedmont and from 10 to 16 degrees in most mountain areas. The frequent rains during the month were light, thus the total rainfall was one to three inches below average for February.

An unusual feature of this month's weather was the almost complete absence of snowfall from even the mountain areas of the State for the second month in succession.

NORTH CAROLINA - INCHES OF RAINFALL DURING FEBRUARY, 1950



Rainfall data furnished
By Dept. of Commerce
Weather Bureau, Raleigh